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Item 72 of the provisional agenda*
Rights of peoples to self-determination

Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its resolution 2005/2 of 7 April 2005, the Commission on Human Rights decided to end the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right to self-determination and to establish a working group, made up of one expert from each of the five regional groups, for a period of three years.

2. The mandate of the Working Group (para. 12 of the resolution) is:

> "(*a*) To elaborate and present concrete proposals on possible new standards, general guidelines or basic principles encouraging the further protection of human rights, in particular the right of peoples to self-determination, while facing current and emergent threats posed by mercenaries or mercenary-related activities;
>
> "(*b*) To seek opinions and contributions from Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on questions relating to its mandate;
>
> "(*c*) To monitor mercenaries and mercenary-related activities in all their forms and manifestations in different parts of the world;
>
> "(*d*) To study and identify emerging issues, manifestations and trends regarding mercenaries or mercenary-related activities and their impact on human rights, particularly on the right of peoples to self-determination;
>
> "(*e*) To monitor and study the effects of the activities of private companies offering military assistance, consultancy and security services on the international market on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly the right of peoples to self-determination, and to prepare draft international basic

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principles that encourage respect for human rights on the part of those companies in their activities."

3. On 29 July 2005, the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights nominated the five members of the Working Group: Najat Al-Hajjaji (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Amada Benavides de Pérez (Colombia), Françoise Hampson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Alexander Ivanovich Nikitin (Russian Federation) and Shaista Shameem (Fiji).

4. At the time of drafting this note Ms. Al-Hajjaji, Ms. Benavides, Mr. Nikitin and Ms. Shameem had officially accepted the offers of appointment.

5. The Working Group will convene its first session from 10 to 14 October 2005.

6. Pursuant to resolution 2005/2, a full report of the Working Group on its first session will be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-second session.